



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

April 15, 2008

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: APPROVAL OF  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY PLAN FOR REFUGEE SOCIAL SERVICES AND  
TARGETED ASSISTANCE FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2008  
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) requests Board approval of the County's Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2008 Refugee Social Services and Targeted Assistance (RSS/TA) Plan to comply with the California Department of Social Services' requirement that all Counties submit Board approved plans on an annual basis. The purpose of the RSS/TA plan is to demonstrate how the County plans to deliver employment services to the County's refugee population. The plan reflects the redesign of the County's Refugee Employment Program (REP).

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

Approve the attached County Plan for Refugee Social Services (RSS) and Targeted Assistance (TA) for FFY 2008. The plan addresses how the County, under its administration of REP, utilizes the RSS and TA grants to finance services for refugees and asylees residing in Los Angeles County.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The California Department of Social Services' (CDSS) Refugee Programs Bureau requires Los Angeles County to submit a RSS/TA Plan to demonstrate how the County plans to deliver services to the County's refugee population. The County's 2008 RSS/TA Plan covers FFY 2008 and documents the County's administration of REP.

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

The State requires counties to submit a County Plan on an annual basis. The Plan for FFY 08 was developed by DPSS and reflects a redesign of the County's REP program. As a preliminary measure, the plan was submitted to the State for their review. On February 22, 2008, the State provisionally approved the County's plan. Upon receiving Board approval, the plan will be resubmitted to CDSS for final certification.

REP is the County's employment program which is designed to provide culturally and linguistically sensitive employment, training and specialized services for refugees. The goal of the REP Program is to assist refugees in attaining self-sufficiency. Services under this program are available to all refugees who are aided through CalWORKs, Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), or General Relief (GR) Programs or those refugees not aided through any public assistance program.

Refugees are eligible for REP services for the first five years after entry into the United States. Asylees (individuals who travel to the United States, apply for and receive a grant of asylum) are eligible for REP services for the first five years after the date they attain asylee status from the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

DPSS administers the REP program through contracts with six (6) community-based refugee agencies which became effective April 1, 2008.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommendations are consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan Goal #1: Service Excellence, Strategy #2: Design seamless service delivery systems, and Goal #5: Improve Children and Families Well-Being.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The REP program is financed through federal RSS/TA grants allocated to the County by CDSS and the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement.

CalWORKs Single Allocation funding is used for supportive services and compliance activities for CalWORKs mandatory refugee participants. There is no additional Net County Cost (NCC) after the required CalWORKs Maintenance of Effort (MOE) is met. The costs are included in the FY 07/08 adopted budget.

The County's total RSS and TA grant allocation for the FFY 2008 is \$3,093,388 for RSS, \$1,274,802 for TA and \$99,229 for TA Discretionary Grant for Older Refugees.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

As previously noted, this plan must be submitted to the CDSS Refugee Programs Bureau. Once submitted, the State will have the authority to approve or disapprove the plan. DPSS drafted the plan to fulfill the applicable legal requirements, meet programmatic goals and garner State approval. To that end, DPSS circulated an earlier draft of this plan to State officials, and in response DPSS received comments from the State which DPSS then used to further refine the plan. Since provisional approval of the plan has been received from the State, DPSS is submitting the plan to your Board for your approval. Once approved, it will be resubmitted to the State for final certification.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of the plan will allow for the continued provision of employment services to the refugee population through the REP program.

### **CONCLUSION**

Upon approval by the Board, the Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors, is requested to return four adopted, stamped Board letters to the Department of Public Social Services.

Respectfully submitted,



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

WTF: SRH:MS  
GP:JB:cvb

Attachment

c: County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Department of Public Social Services  
Auditor-Controller